

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-30 are pending. Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended and new claims 22-30 have been added through this Reply. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate important features related to selecting a desired location along the travel route represented by the travel route data, and obtaining related data, related to the desired location, from a related data storage means that stores a plurality sets of related data including at least one image photographed at or in vicinity of the desired location by a third party user. Claims 7 and 13 have been similarly amended to emphasize these important features that are described in the specification. See, page 27, line 18 – page 28, line 18, for example. The process of clicking a desired position on the map as described at page 27, lines 19-20 corresponds to the process of selecting a desired location along the travel route represented by the travel route data. The selected location is a location where a user wishes to obtain related data thereof, which is not necessarily a location where a picture was actually taken. This feature allows obtaining related data related to the desired location along the travel route, even if the user could not take a picture thereat. The related data thereof can thus be obtained as long as the travel route data is obtained.

New claims 22-24 are supported in the specification at page 22, lines 8-9, for example. New claims 25-27 are supported in the specification at page 22, lines 1-23, for example. New claims 8-30 are supported in the specification at page 7, lines 9-12 and at page 30, line 2 – page 31, line 22, for example.

The Rejection

The outstanding Action presents a rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murashita (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0186412 A1) in view of Squibbs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,626, hereinafter “Squibbs”).

As described in paragraphs [0223] – [00225] of Murashita, regional information (the cite where the pictures have been taken) “is labeled to the image data together with the date and time of photographing” (see paragraph [0223]), and a traveling route is determined based on the information labeled to the image data (see paragraph [0225]).

Furthermore, paragraph [0226] of Murashita teaches that the regional information (the site where the pictures have been taken) is used to provide a user with information, such as advertisement information relating to the places where the image data has been obtained. Thus, to whatever extent that Murashita teaches data related to a site where pictures have been taken, Murashita is nevertheless silent about selecting a desired location along the travel route represented by the travel route data that is a location where a user wishes to obtain related data thereof. Murashita also does not enable obtaining related data related to the desired location along the travel route at which the user could not take a picture.

To whatever extent that col. 13, lines 19-24, of Squibbs suggests “fetching (or initiating an automatic fetch of) photo image data from the Internet to match the location concerned,” this suggestion and the other teachings and suggestions in Squibbs do not correct the above noted deficiencies of Murashita as to the subject matter of amended independent claims 1, 7, and 13.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are respectfully submitted to be patentably distinguishable from Murashita considered alone or in any proper combination with Squibbs.

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-21 depend from respective ones of independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated with respect to each of the base independent claims 1, 7, and 13, dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-21 are also respectfully submitted to be patentably distinguishable from Murashita considered alone or in any proper combination with Squibbs.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claims 1-21 based on Murashita in view of Squibbs be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 22-30 have been added through this reply. Claims 22-30 depend from base independent claims 1, 7, and 13, respectively. All of new claims 22-30 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in any combination, for at least the same reasons offered above as to these base independent claims 1, 7, and 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 22-30 be allowed along with claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, and 17-22.

Conclusion

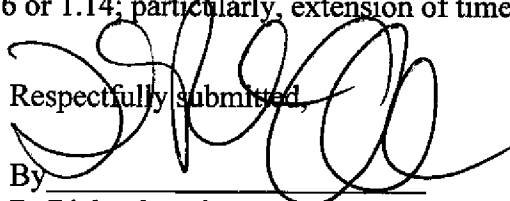
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond Cardillo, Reg. No. 40,440 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 22, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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